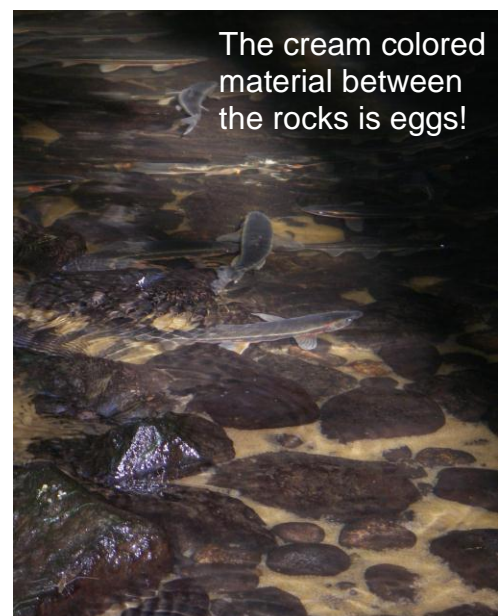


Watch Peamouth Minnow Spawn in Bellevue!

It's that time of year again! Countless numbers of Peamouth Minnows should be returning to Kelsey Creek to spawn any time between now and mid June.

Peamouth are only here for 12-48 hours so if you want to see them you have to be there at the right time. Volunteer are currently monitoring streams for returning fish. They will help us document each spawning and notify Stream Team so everyone gets a chance to see fish.



Peamouth are a Lake Washington fish, about a foot long, and can live an average of 8 years. Unlike salmon, peamouth don't mind warmer water and lower stream levels in the spring. Thousands of peamouth spawn in our streams every year in April or May and go back to the lake in less than 2 days. The stream is plastered with gazillions of sticky little eggs that only take 7-9 days to hatch. The juvenile peamouth are an excellent source of prey for fish in the stream and lake. What a perfect snack for the juvenile salmon who are working their way around the lake towards salt water at this time of year!

Sneak up on the sites and watch quietly! You may enjoy seeing other wildlife including blue heron, wood ducks, river otter, raccoon, and bald eagle. The return of the peamouth is like a wildlife party at the stream! We also need to be respectful of their space.

Plants grow by the inch but die by the foot --- your foot!

Please watch your step so we don't degrade the habitat we're all out there to enjoy!

Directions to sites where peamouth can be seen:

445 - Mercer Slough

Mercer Slough Fish Ladder, 118th/SE 8th

Mercer Slough fish ladder-south of SE 8th

From I-405 and SE 8th:

-Go West on SE 8th (towards Mercer Slough)

-Left on 118th Ave SE

Park at first lot on right before the site or the in next lot after.

Look for Creek sign (Mercer Slough) at the sidewalk and walk down the slope.

13 A&B - Kelsey Creek,

A - Under Wilburton Trestle, 121st/SE 8th

From I-405 and SE 8th:

-Go East on SE 8th St. (towards Lake Hills Connector)

-Right on 121st (after the fire station)

-Right onto street right after "Welcome to Wilburton" sign

-Park off on right shoulder or further down the street and walk back to the site. (I think the general rule around town is that you need to get your wheels off the pavement to make sure you don't get a ticket!)

Walk along the trail between, and parallel to, the trestle and 121st towards SE 8th.

Before you get to the stream you'll see a little foot trail off to the right you can follow for a great viewpoint above the stream.

Walk along pipeline near Wilburton Trestle to creek edge.

B - Culvert just east of Wilburton trestle,

Same driving directions as above but after you park, walk down the sidewalk along 121st towards SE8th. Look for the blue creek sign (says Mercer Slough but it really is Kelsey) and walk down the short trail toward the railing over the stream.

Watch from viewing platform just off west side of street by the metal railing over the culvert

